

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th May 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that even when Colonel

The Somaliland war.

Plunket's force has been annihilated the War Minister has the boldness to say that the Mad Mulla has been sufficiently punished. Alas! Necessity knows no law. What the British Government has gained by the Somaliland War is not known. As a matter of fact, the English at first thought that the Mulla was only a mouse, but now that they have discovered that he is a lion they have to retrace their steps.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

2. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 11th May has the following:—

The Powers and Turkey.

There is a feeling of unrest in the minds of the subject people of the Turkish Empire. It seems that there will be a great war between the Christian Powers and Turkey. The former believe that if Turkey is allowed to live in peace and comfort, she will prove an obstacle in the way of their establishing absolute mastery in the East. For this reason they have made it a general policy to keep the Sultan fully engaged with the affairs of his own dominion. Now they are playing another trick; they are going the length of interfering in the internal administration of the Turkish Empire. The consequence is that peace is disturbed throughout the Empire.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
May 11th, 1903.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 28th April publishes the following correspondence:—

Alleged *zulm* by a zamindar of Faridpur.

Muhammad Ismail Khan Chaudhuri, at present part proprietor of the estate of Nawab Mir Muhammad Ali of Pangsa, has been recently exacting illegal cesses from his *raiya*s by force and *zulm*. He has always at his command some 25 or 30 *lathials*, so that nobody, however oppressed he may be, dares to bring a case against him. No evidence can be procured against him. The writer has been compelled, for these reasons, to abandon his ancestral residence.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 28th, 1903.

Referring to the foregoing allegations, the editor says that the zamindar named by the correspondent has been recently honoured with a title by the Government.

4. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 3rd May publishes the following list of cases of outrage on women in the Noakhali district:—

Cases of outrage of female modesty in the Noakhali district.

SUHRID,
May 3rd, 1903.

(1) *Sub-judice* case in the Court of Sasi Babu, Deputy Magistrate, against a police constable named Abdul Ajij charged with having tried to outrage the modesty of the wife of Babu Subal Chandra, a clerk in the Chhagalnaia Sub-Registry office.

(2) Case against Mahabbat Ali Miya, Sub-Inspector of Raniganj, charged with having ravished a Musalman girl.

(3) *Sub-judice* case in the Court of Upendra Babu, Deputy Magistrate, against one Umarali, an inhabitant of the Aladad village, under the Lakshmipur thana, charged with having committed rape on the wife of one Neajali of the same village.

(4) Case against one Jabadali charged with having attempted to outrage the modesty of a woman named Jabadabanu, an inhabitant of the Hasandi village under the Lakshmipur thana.

(5) Case against one Achhilar charged with having tried to ravish a woman named Abidbanu of the Bhannai village under the Begamganj thana.

(6) Case against one Abdul Majid for trying to violate the modesty of a washerwoman named Kameswari of the Muchhapur village in the Sandwip.

(7) Case against one Chand Miya, Munshi, charged with having attempted to ravish the wife of one Chhabarali of the Keroa village under the Raipur thana.

(8) Case against a boy named Kalimaddi Molla charged with having attempted to commit rape on a woman named Jarifabanu Fakirni of the Keroa village mentioned above.

(9) Case against one Fajarali Munshi charged with having committed rape on a woman named Jabeda Khatun of the Palish village, under the Beganganj thana.

(10) Case against Alabux and others charged with having murdered one Chandra Kumar Chakravarti in an attempt to kidnap his wife.

The accused persons in the above cases should be heavily punished, and if any of them is proved not guilty, the complainant in the case should be prosecuted under section 211 of the Penal Code.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 6th, 1903.

5. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 6th May has the following:—

Tiger-scare at Lalgola in the Murshidabad district.

There has been a serious tiger-scare at Lalgola for some time past. On the 16th April, a cow was carried off by a tiger in the presence of several people. Next day, one Narayan Ray was inspecting his mango-crop when a tiger pounced upon him and grievously hurt him. He is now in hospital in a precarious state. Every night cries of *feu* (a species of jackal) are heard and most householders are obliged to keep up a fire in their houses and cowsheds, and to keep them closed in this sultry weather. Thanks to the enforcement of the Arms Act, those that have the courage to shoot have not been allowed the use of fire-arms, and those that have been granted the privilege have not the boldness to face a tiger.

SANJIVANI.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th May notices several cases of theft committed in the village of Kotalipara in the district of Faridpur and in adjoining villages.

Thefts in Kotalipara.

On the 4th February last at 11 P.M., there was an unsuccessful attempt at theft in the house of Tufanulla Sheikh of village Kusal. The same night there were two cases of house-breaking with theft in the neighbouring villages Jamula and Bunwari. The local *chaukidar* was away that night. The *dafadar* also did not take any active part in the investigation of the matter. What is the use then of paying the *chaukidari* tax?

The writer is glad to hear that the *dafadar* has been suspended by the District Superintendent of Police for some other misconduct.

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

7. The same paper publishes three letters to the following effect:—

The *chaukidari*-tax.

Great oppression is committed in connection with the realisation of the *chaukidari*-tax in the Devagram village in the Nadia district. Even those who cannot procure two meals in a day are obliged to pay it. If one fails to pay it timely, the drinking pot and torn cloth forming his only properties are taken away. The *chaukidar* never goes on round at night. He works hard during the day and sleeps soundly at night. Although the condition of the villagers has greatly deteriorated within the last quarter of a century, the *chaukidari*-tax has been enhanced three or fourfold.

Another letter written from the Bijga village, in the Dacca district, contains complaints similar to the above.

A third letter written from the Patisor village within the Naogaon subdivision of the Rajshahi district, besides containing complaints similar to the above, gives a pathetic description of how the village panchayet was about to sell the door of a poor woman's hut for arrears of the *chaukidari*-tax, but was dissuaded by other villagers from the act, and how a poor priest hardly able to maintain his family is oppressed by the *chaukidari*-tax. The village *chaukidar* is, one would laugh to hear, blind.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

8. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that

Complaint against a policeman in Cooch Behar.

a policeman became excessively rude and even boisterous with drink during the *jatra* performance which was held at the last Syam Sundar *mela* in the Dekhaliganj village in Cooch Behar. The man had to be removed with the help of a number of police constables. The *naib aholkar* is trying to hush up the matter.

9. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May has received reports of tiger-scare and depredations by tigers from the following places:—

BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1903.

Tiger-scare in some places in the province.

- (1) Jamaldaha in Cooch Behar;
- (2) the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district;
- (3) Kulbaria within the jurisdiction of the Kaliganj thana in the Nadia district;
- (4) Bodhgaon within the jurisdiction of the Thakurgaon thana in the Dinajpur district;
- (5) *Chur* Haraganj in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district.

The depredations by tigers and other wild animals have increased in consequence of the action of the Government in not allowing the people to possess arms of any kind.

10. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th May complains of the exclusion from year to year of the inhabitants of the Dacca Division from the examination for the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police. In the rules for the current year framed by the Inspector-

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1903.

Exclusion of the people of the Dacca Division from the Police Sub-Inspectorship Examination.

General of Police, the people of the Chittagong Division and not those of the Dacca Division have been declared eligible for the examination. But the latter are not inferior to any in point of education or of merit, and have rather been given credit by the Government for ability shown by them in the Police service. The attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to this injustice done to the Dacca Division.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

11. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 3rd May has the following:—

SUHRID,
May 3rd, 1903.

The Deputy Magistrates of Noakhali.

For several years, the people of Noakhali have been suffering from *zulm* and mal-administration of justice at the hands of the local Deputy Magistrates. If any of their friends happen to appear before them as accused persons, they always show strong bias in their favour. Not content with discharging the accused and sentencing the complainants in such cases to imprisonment the Deputy Magistrates even go the length of granting compensation to the accused by the distress and sale of the moveable property of the complainant.

The case instituted by the police under section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against Abdul Jubbar Miya has been dragging its slow length along before Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen for nine or ten months. Recently, the hearing of the case has been taken up, but Sasi Babu is disallowing cross-examination on behalf of the accused. He even ill-treated the mukhtar for the defence for insisting on the cross-examination of a certain witness. The matter has been brought to the notice of the District Magistrate. Mr. Ezechiel, the former Magistrate of Noakhali, considered Sasi Babu quite unfit for judicial work.

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th May has the following:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 6th, 1903.

A conviction for misappropriation of pipe-water at Bhagalpur.

Recently, Mr. Marriott, the Magistrate of Bhagalpur, found a person bathing in the pipe-water supplied to his master. He at once arrested the person, tried him himself and sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 25 for misappropriation of the water. The Magistrate observed that the plea of the accused, viz., that the water was the property of his master and that the offence, if any, was committed with his master's knowledge was in itself a sufficient ground for the punishment.

The legality of the procedure followed by the Magistrate is questionable. The Magistrate was himself the arresting officer, the witness and the Judge. In the next place, the reasons given by him for awarding an exemplary punishment are far from sound or convincing. The rule that bathing constitutes a misappropriation of water may be in force in cold latitudes, but to enforce it in India is the height of inhumanity.

13. The *Medini Banahav* [Midnapore] of the 6th May says that want of rains has made this year a very bad year for the cultivators in the Midnapore district. Scarcity and disease generated by scarcity, are eating into the vitals of the raiyats. Many zamindars have

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 6th, 1903.

Oppressive realisation of revenues from the Midnapore khas mahal raiyats.

generously stopped realising rents from their tenants. But it is a matter of great regret that Babu Ramsadan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Collector, who has recently been placed in charge of the khas mahals within the saddar subdivision of the district, has issued certificates, and is committing great *zulm* in order to realise revenues due by khas mahal raiyats. Babu Jogendra Narayan Mitra, Ramsadan Babu's immediate predecessor in the place, could not do the same, because he realised the position of the raiyat: once the khas mahal raiyats of the Balarampur pargana petitioned Mr. Luson for remission of revenues, on the ground of failure of crops; but although Mr. Luson could not grant a remission, he ordered their payments to be deferred indefinitely. But Ramsadan Babu is a man of a different stamp. Last year also when he was in charge of the khas mahals he realised revenues with great *zulm*. Formerly he was Deputy Collector of the Midnapore canal. Canal tenures are temporary, and their revenues have to be collected by any means. It is this practice which has made him so oppressive to permanent tenants also. Surely Government has not placed him in the khas mahals as the proper man for realising revenues from starving raiyats: experience forbids any such belief. For when in 1896, a year of scarcity, Manas Ranjan Babu, the then Deputy Collector of the khas mahals, issued certificates against defaulting tenants, Mr. Mackertich Certificate Officer, brought the matter to the notice of Mr. Bright, the then Collector of the district. Mr. Bright ordered the withdrawal of the certificates, remitted process-fees to the amount of Rs. 100, and ordered that revenues should not be realised from the khas mahal raiyats as long as the market price of rice did not fall to Re. 1 per 12 seers. Mr. Cumming, who succeeded Mr. Bright, approved of his action.

Those of the khas mahals raiyats who had the means to pay their revenues had paid them up on or before the 31st March last. But those whom neither the threats of the tahsildar nor the fiery eyes of the chaprasi could compel to pay their revenues have really nothing wherewith to pay them. But Ramsadan Babu would not easily let them go. He has issued certificates and engaged constables to commit *zulm* on them. Threats of being insulted and dishonoured have compelled many of them to sell their brass utensils and even borrow in order to pay up their revenues. Mr. Marr, the District Collector, is requested to withdraw the certificates and put a stop to constables visiting the raiyat's house in consideration of the miserable condition in which Providence has placed him this year.

MRDINI BANDHAV,
May 6th, 1903.

14. The same paper says that Maulavi Nazimuddin Ahmed, a Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, is in the habit of abusing parties and witnesses. On the 29th April last Babu Jiban Kanai Meikap, a wealthy and respectable inhabitant of the Bhunya village, under the Sabanga thana, appeared in his Court as a witness in a case. Finding some discrepancy in his evidence, the Maulavi abused him in open Court, and charged him under section 193 of the Penal Code for giving false evidence. Jiban Kanai Babu filed a complaint against the Maulavi in the Court of Babu Ramsadan Bhattacharyya under sections 504, 500 and 506 of the Penal Code. The District Magistrate requested Jiban Kanai Babu to withdraw the case, but he said that he could not withdraw it so long as the case against him under section 193 was not withdrawn. The case against the Maulavi was afterwards dismissed by Ramsadan Babu, on the ground that the Maulavi abused the complainant with no criminal intention. The result of the case against Jiban Kanai Babu is awaited with great interest.

15. Referring to the case in which Babu Chandi Prasad, a respectable zamindar of Darbhanga, was arrested, confined in *hajat*, and afterwards released on his executing a recognizance, on the oral complaint of an indigo-planter named Miller, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes as follows:—

We do not know whether Mr. Bourdillon know anything of this case. If only a word from a European can bring such indignity to a native gentleman, then people will find it unsafe to live in the country. This is why rich men and zamindars leave the mufassal and fly to the metropolis. If police officers send people to *hajat* relying simply on the words of Europeans, anarchy will soon reign in the country. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the conduct of the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate of Darbhanga in the above case.

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

A hard case in Darbhanga.

16. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that the District Collector of Nadia compelled his *amla* to work during the last Muharram, Good Friday and Chaitra Sankranti holidays. Will there be no end of such complaints?

HITAVADI.
May 8th, 1903.

The *amla* of the Nadia Collectorate compelled to work during authorised holidays.

17. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Sub-Registrar of Kishorganj in the Rangpur district refuses to register such deeds as are not written by the clerk attached to his office. One Bahvan Ulla Saha, an inhabitant of the Kalikapur village, had two or three deeds written by his *sarkar* and went to the Kishorganj office for the purpose of having them registered, but there they were refused, because they had not been written by the office clerk. He paid an illegal gratification of Re. 1 to a clerk, but to no effect. At last he had the deeds registered in the Nilphamari Sub-Registry Office. The writer attached to the Kishorganj office takes Re. 1 and sometimes even Re. 1-4 for writing a document. One has also to pay annas 8 or annas 12 to the clerks of the office for taking out a receipt. Then again there are copying fees, page fees, extra fees, fines, &c., which are realised from people coming to have their deeds registered. In short, one cannot have a deed registered in the Kishorganj Sub-Registry office without being put to an unnecessary expense of Rs. 4 or 5.

HITAVADI.

The Kishorganj Sub-Registry office in the Rangpur district.

inhabitant of the Kalikapur village, had two or three deeds written by his *sarkar* and went to the Kishorganj office for the purpose of having them registered, but there they were refused, because they had not been written by the office clerk. He paid an illegal gratification of Re. 1 to a clerk, but to no effect. At last he had the deeds registered in the Nilphamari Sub-Registry Office. The writer attached to the Kishorganj office takes Re. 1 and sometimes even Re. 1-4 for writing a document. One has also to pay annas 8 or annas 12 to the clerks of the office for taking out a receipt. Then again there are copying fees, page fees, extra fees, fines, &c., which are realised from people coming to have their deeds registered. In short, one cannot have a deed registered in the Kishorganj Sub-Registry office without being put to an unnecessary expense of Rs. 4 or 5.

18. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 9th May is sorry that the Magistrate of Bhagalpur has sentenced a man to a fine of Rs. 25, or in default, to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment, simply because he was bathing at a street hydrant while the Magistrate was passing by.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 9th, 1903.

A severe punishment for a light offence.

19. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th May has the following:—

An illegal order passed by a Munsif of Munshiganj.

For some time past people have heard many things said against Babu Asutosh Gupta, 3rd Munsif of Munshiganj. Recently, he has issued an illegal order requiring the attachment of Court-fees to written statements filed by defendants in suits, on the day of first hearing. It is hoped that the District Judge will take steps to bring the Munsif to his senses.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1903.

(d)—Education.

20. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes as follows:—

Mr. Pedler on immoral surroundings of schools and colleges.

The following Circular has been issued by Mr. Pedler:—

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

CIRCULAR No. 39.

FROM A. PEDLER, Esq., F.R.S., C.I.E.,

Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

TO ALL THE PRINCIPALS OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGES AND INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

Dated Calcutta, the 4th April 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enquire whether any of the Government and other educational institutions under your control have immoral surroundings of any kind, and if so, whether it can be stated to what extent such immoral surroundings have any influence on the students. If such immoral surroundings have been brought to your notice, I have to ask what steps have

been, or are being taken to get rid of such surroundings. I shall also be glad to have any suggestions that you may have to make towards the accomplishment of the end in view.

2. An early reply is solicited.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. PEDLER,

Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

A few years ago Mr. LeMesurier, the then District Magistrate of Bankipore, made an endeavour to drive out prostitutes from the main roads of the town, and Mr. Bourdillon, who was then Commissioner of the Patna Division, promised to help him in the matter. But the agitation failed owing to some fault in the law. Mr. Bourdillon is now our Lieutenant-Governor, and the petition of the Temperance and Purity Association in relation to the matter lies before him. Some decision will probably be soon arrived at on the subject. Again, it is a good sign to see Mr. Pedler taking an active interest in the matter, for which our heartfelt thanks are due to him. We hope he will be an unflinching defender of the students' morals.

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 10th, 1903.

21. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th May complains of the indifference of the local educational authorities to the morals of the Dacca students. The writer has heard

Student morality in Dacca.

that even some of the teachers visit theatres in which the actresses are public prostitutes.

DACCA PRAKASH,

22. The same paper thanks Mr. Pedler for his recent circular to the

A circular issued by Mr. Pedler.

Inspectors of Schools, enquiring whether the educational institutions under their control have any immoral surroundings of any kind. If his enquiries lead to any practical result, it will prove a blessing to the people. The native community ought to do its best to help Mr. Pedler in his laudable efforts to improve schoolboy morality.

PRITAVASI,
May 11th, 1903.

23. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May has the following:—

The present condition of the Calcutta Sanskrit College.

Government will be able to form an idea of the wretched condition to which the Sanskrit Department of the Calcutta Sanskrit College has been reduced by comparing the number of students borne on its rolls under former Principals and the number borne now. The public are now taking an increasing interest in Sanskrit education and *tols* having for their object the spread of that education are springing up in various parts of Bengal. One may well ask then, why the number of students in the Sanskrit College, an institution maintained by Government and presided over by a Mahamahopadhyaya, should not also show an increase in the number of its students. There is no truth in the supposition that the outbreak of plague in Calcutta is the cause of the falling off in the number of students in the College.

The truth is that the present Principal of the Sanskrit College, though honoured with the titles of 'Sastri,' and 'Mahamahopadhyaya,' is not considered by the public to be deeply learned in the Sanskrit *Sastras*. All the learning, again, he possesses, is exhausted by him in antiquarian research. His pupils, therefore, fail to benefit in the least by his learning. It was also sheer kindness on the Government's part that it kept him in his post after the display of learning and ability he had made in his exposition of the *Meghdut*.

Most of the Professors, also of the Sanskrit Department, take after their Principal. Every well-wisher of the college knows that the Principal is on very intimate terms with Pramatha Nath Tarkabhushan, one of the Professors of the College, and with Rajendra Chandra Vidyabhushan, Professor of Sanskrit in the Metropolitan Institution. The writer has heard that Pramatha Nath Tarkabhushan passed the Sanskrit examination only in *Kavya* and was employed on a small pay as a teacher in the *tol* of the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

At the request of the Maharaja and others he was appointed Professor of *Smṛiti* in the Sanskrit College on a pay of Rs. 100 a month. *Smṛiti* is, therefore, being now taught in the Sanskrit College, by a Professor who has passed only in *Kavya*.

The public will perhaps be even more astonished to hear that it is sought to appoint the above-named Rajendra Chandra Vidyabhusan as a Second Professor of *Smṛiti* in the Sanskrit College on a pay of Rs. 125 a month. Rajendra Chandra, too, is only a *Kavyatīrtha*, and the writer does not know how he became a *Vidyabhusan*. Recently he has passed the examination in *Smṛiti*, as a pupil of Pandit Haris Chandra Tarkaratna of Mulajor and has stood first in the first division. Seeing that even immediately before his examination Rajendra Chandra was discharging his duties in the Metropolitan Institution, one fails to understand how he became a pupil in the Mulajor *tol* or studied there for at least six months previous to his examination.

Though the Sanskrit College hardly contains five students in the M. A. class, the Principal is endeavouring to create four new Professorships of *Vedānta*, *Smṛiti* and *Nyāya* on salaries of Rs. 100, Rs. 125, Rs. 100, and Rs. 75 respectively. It will be for the Government to decide whether in the present condition of the college it will be advisable to spend on it an additional amount of Rs. 400 a month. If the new Professorships have been proposed with a view of improving the College, a free hand should not be given to the present Principal, who is too fond of providing for his own creatures, in selecting the new Professors. In filling the proposed Professorships, Government should consult the two retired Professors of the Sanskrit College, who are both Mahamahopadhyayas and are yet living, and other eminent and experienced Pandits in the country.

There can be no difference of opinion as to the fact that the want of competent Professors is the cause of the deterioration of the Sanskrit Department of the College. The money which Government is at present spending on the Department is quite sufficient to secure the services of learned Pandits who also enjoy a reputation as teachers. That it does not attract such scholars is because learned pandits are fearless and spirited men who are unacquainted with the work of the Asiatic Society. The Professorship of *Smṛiti* fell vacant in the time of Mahamahopadhyaya Nilmani Nyayalankar. Many Pandits deeply learned in *Smṛiti* applied for the post; but, at the request of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, it was given to Pramatha Nath Tarkabhushan, who was versed only in *Kavya*. Even men like Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar and the late Madhu Sudan Smritiratna entered the Sanskrit College as Professors on Rs. 75 a month, but Pramatha Nath Tarkabhushan was appointed on a monthly salary of Rs. 100, perhaps because he was to teach subjects in which he was not versed!

The gaps caused in the College by the retirement of Madhusadan Smritiratna and Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar have not yet been filled up. The authorities may yet enable the College to recover its old glory by being careful to choose its Professors from among eminent Sanskrit Pandits. As for the opinion the public entertain of the present Sanskrit College, it will be enough to say that a *vyavastha* given by the present Professor of *Smṛiti*, caused much amusement among other learned Pandits. That there should be a lack of pupils anxious to read *Smṛiti* with such a Professor is a thing that is not very difficult to understand. This Professor of *Smṛiti* set the questions at the last examination in *Nyāya*, and the inexcusable mistakes in the question papers surprised all Pandits.

The writer has been alarmed to hear that to improve the teaching of *Smṛiti*, it has been proposed to appoint Rajendra Chandra Vidyabhusan as a Second Professor in that subject. Rajendra Chandra stood first at the last *Smṛiti* examination, but it is said that he was raised to the first division by the kindness of the examiners in giving him ten grace marks. He is, at all events, a mere tyro in *Smṛiti* and has not the experience necessary to qualify him as a Professor in the subject. On the other hand, there are many eminent Pandits in *Smṛiti* who would gladly accept the post in the Sanskrit College. In selecting a man for this second Professorship of *Smṛiti*, too, Government should not place full reliance on the Principal, but consult eminent Pandits and give opportunities to all Pandits to apply for the post.

(e)—Local Self-Government, and Municipal Administration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 5th, 1903.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th May has the following:—

Delay in gazetting the names of the Government nominees for the Burdwan Municipality.

The election of Commissioners for the local Municipality took place in March last. But as the names of those who are to be nominated by the Government have not yet appeared in the official Gazette, the work of the Municipality is suffering considerably. Neither the former Commissioners nor those newly elected attend the meetings; a new Chairman and a new Vice-Chairman have not yet been elected. The present Chairman and Vice-Chairman not being sure of their continuance in office are likely to lose all zeal in their work. There is no check on the work of the Chairman and the Secretary; Government therefore should lose no time to publishing the names of its nominees.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 5th, 1903.

25. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th May says:—

Want of good drinking water in Mymensingh.

The people of Mymensingh suffer great distress for want of good drinking water from the month of *Magh* to that of *Jaishtha*. This distress has been aggravated since the earthquake of 1304 (B.S.) which has had the effect of drying up almost all the sources of water-supply in the district. People using the foul water of stagnant pools are falling victims to various epidemics. The authorities should look to the health of the *mufassal* as well as to that of the city, for if any contagious disease prevails in the outskirts of the city it is likely to spread to the city itself.

The District Board and the local zamindars are indeed able to remove the want. But the former is shamefully lacking in zeal as regards its discharge of this duty. Nor do we find it to be the intention of Government that the Board should spend liberally on this account. The present zamindars again, unlike their predecessors, are not much willing to pay for the removal of water scarcity. How long will the Board and the zamindars continue indifferent?

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 6th, 1903.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th May writes as follows:—

Water scarcity in the *mufassal*.

Although everybody is aware of the dreadful scarcity of drinking water which prevails in various places in the *mufassal*, still, according to the official Gazette, there is no such scarcity. This is due to the fact that the authorities place implicit trust in the accounts with which they are furnished by village *chaukidars*. If the Government will only take the trouble of looking into the *mufassal* newspapers, it cannot but be convinced of the existence of water scarcity in the country.

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th May has the following:—

Scarcity of drinking water in the *mufassal*.

We have received many letters dwelling on the great scarcity of drinking water in various parts of the *mufassal*. In some places, villagers have been obliged to drink from filthy cess-pools in common with cattle. In others, even such pools have dried up and women may be found fetching water from distant villages. The District Boards ought to re-excavate old tanks and sink deep wells in every village in order to prevent such scarcity occurring every summer.

SANJIVANI.

28. The same paper says that Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Calcutta

Mr. Greer's mismanagement of the finances of the Calcutta Municipality.

Municipal Corporation, with two of the Commissioners, borrowed four lakhs of rupees from the Bank of Bengal on the 3rd April last, to meet a deficit in the funds. In the accounts of the Corporation published on the 18th April, it appeared that in addition to the above loan a sum of Rs. 90,960 out of the funds deposited by the contractors as securities has been expended. The law does not allow the Chairman to spend money out of these funds, since they are to be returned to the contractors as soon as they execute their contracts. Mr. Greer has, by increasing useless expenditure and by abolishing the practice of checking accounts, well-nigh brought the Calcutta Municipality, whose annual income amounts to over 50 lakhs, to the verge of insolvency. Unless Mr. Greer is removed, there is no hope for the Calcutta Municipality.

29. The same paper says that the foot paths of streets in European quarters in Calcutta are being paved with stone, while the native *bustis* remain filthy hot-beds of disease. The Municipality is going to spend so large a sum as about Rs 49,000 for paving the foot paths of the Strand Road. Will not the Commissioners look to the health of the town in preference to its beauty?

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that although the late Sir Alexander Mackenzie called the late Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality selfish, worthless, and so forth, yet it must be admitted on all hands that under the new Municipal Government of the city the troubles of the rate-payers have greatly increased. In all matters, whether it be the construction of a building or the assessment of a house, they have to depend on the whims of municipal servants. In the native quarter of the town conservancy is extremely bad and the streets and lanes are not well watered. The supply of drinking water is also very deficient. It is thus seen that the new Municipal Act has only added to the troubles of the inhabitants of Calcutta. Either the old law should be introduced or the new law should be modified. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Pioneer* news-paper has happily taken the same view of the subject.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

31. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May complains of the inadequate supply of filtered water in the native quarters of Calcutta. The European quarters, says the writer, are, however, fully supplied. Why is this distinction, when native and European rate-payers pay the Municipality the same rates? Again all wells and tanks in the town being filled up by order of the Municipality, where are the rate-payers to get their supply of water? Rich people, it is true, can get their water fetched from the College Square and Cornwallis Square tanks by water-carriers, but poor, respectable people cannot send out the women of their families to fetch water from those public tanks. Mr. Greer should relieve the town of this water scarcity in this hottest season of the year.

BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1903.

32. The same paper gives a dialogue between the editor and a milkman in which the latter assigns the following reasons for the adulteration of the milk sold in Calcutta with water and the high price of pure milk :—

BANGAVASI.

- (1) The undue severity of the Calcutta Municipality in inspecting the milk which arrives at the Sealdah station for supply to the Calcutta market.
- (2) The shortness of the milk supply of the country due to the ill-feeding of cows for want of pasture land.
- (3) Oppressions connected with cattle-pounds.
- (4) Inability of the public to purchase pure milk at a dear price.

33. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 9th May is sorry that the Calcutta Municipality is spending a large amount of money in paving with stone the footpaths along the streets in the European quarter of the town, while it totally neglects the sanitation of the native quarter which on account of dirt and filth has become, as it were, the favourite abode of death and disease.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 9th, 1903.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

34. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 28th April has the following :—
On account of the construction of a railway line from Kushtia to Rajbari and another from Pachooria to Faridpur, the current of the Goroi, the Chandana, the Pudma and other rivers have been slackened or obstructed. The contemplated line from Faridpur to Bhanga is also sure to produce a similar effect, as also to lead to a scarcity of drinking and bathing water in that part of the country. Famine and epidemics will follow. Moreover, there will be failure of crops in almost every case of drought.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
April 28th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

35. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May publishes the following railway complaints :—

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Sailajaprasad Majumdar, writing from the Dhatrigram village within the Kalna subdivision of the Burdwan district, says that the booking-clerk of the Bolpur station on the East Indian Railway refuses to take copper coins from passengers intending to purchase tickets, as also to take silver coins if he has to return any balance, although there may be enough of copper coins at his disposal for purposes of payment. These whims on the part of the booking-clerk cause great loss and inconvenience to passengers, who are thus in some cases prevented from travelling by their intended trains and obliged in some other cases to leave with him the balance due to them. The correspondent himself had once to suffer at the hands of the booking-clerk. Why does not the booking-clerk accept copper coins? And does he pay to the Railway Company the balance moneys which passengers leave with him?

(2) Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen, writing from Cooch Behar, says that on the 20th January last the ticket-collector of the Sitaldaha station on the Cooch Behar State Railway beat and insulted a respectable Marwari of Cooch Behar for no fault of his. Again, with the sanction of the Station-master of the Cooch Behar Station a cooly-hire of half-anna is realised for every package booked in the station. Evidence on this point can be produced if required.

(3) Babu Lalit Mohan Basu, writing from No. 34 Sukea's Street, Calcutta, says that on the morning of the 12th April last the booking-clerk of the Midnapore station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway rejected and broke a particular rupee which the correspondent had given him for a ticket on the ground that it was a counterfeit coin. The broken rupee is at present with the correspondent and any one can say that it is not a counterfeit coin. Again, the correspondent gave the booking-clerk a rupee and a two-anna silver piece and asked for a ticket from Midnapore to Howrah the price of which was Re. 1-0-9, but the booking-clerk said that he had no copper to pay the balance, although there were enough of copper coins on the table in front of him. About this time another passenger paid some copper coins from which the balance was paid.

(4) One Nagendra Nath Chaudhuri complains that the train which runs between Howrah and Jagadballavpur on the Howrah-Amta Railway and is due at the latter place at 6 P.M., is almost always late. On the 17th and 21st March last the train arrived at Makardaha at 9-30 P.M. Daily passengers who return to their homes after a day's hard labour in Calcutta or elsewhere suffer greatly through this irregularity. Again, the carriages are literally packed with passengers, four, five or even six persons sitting on the bench which contain seats only for three persons. Passengers are also obliged to travel in open coal-waggons. Some of the guards and ticket collectors of the line are very rude and unmindful of the comforts of passengers, being always busy serving their own interests.

(5) Babu Kshirodlal Bhakat, a merchant of Barsoi in the Purnea district, says that the Nos. 76 and 72 down trains which run between the Parbatipur junction station and the Katihar junction and Maniharighat stations on the Bihar section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway are, in their present condition, unable to carry all the passengers who assemble in the intermediate stations to travel by them. Large numbers of these intending passengers are left behind to suffer great loss and inconvenience. The number of third class carriages in the trains ought to be increased in order to remove this difficulty and hardship.

Again, goods are greatly delayed in transit on the line. The dealers in dry fish at Barsoi suffer great loss owing to the considerable delay which sometimes occurs in its transmission; they miss *hats* (markets) and are ruined. Some goods had been booked at Sahebganj on the 24th March last in the correspondent's name, but they did not reach Barsoi even eight days after, whilst many goods which had been booked three or four days after the booking of the above reached Barsoi earlier. 22952 and 64866 are the numbers of the receipts given for the correspondent's goods. Ten canisters of *ghee* booked at the Forbesganj station reached Barsoi 14 days after. On the 29th March last dry fish was booked at the Kurshila and Narayanpur stations under receipts

Nos. 0783 and 0784 and Nos. 0810 and 0811 respectively, but the fish did not reach Barsoi even on the 2nd April following. All this happens through the fault of the railway officer at Katihar junction. How long can merchants sustain such losses?

(6) Babu Kshetradas Ray, a daily passenger from Titagarh to Syamnagar on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, writing from Titagarh says that one day about a month ago he was sitting on a bench on the platform of the Syamnagar station and waiting for the No. 30 down Naihati local train, when a watchman of the station came to him and asked him to walk out of the platform, saying that third-class ticket holders were not allowed to enter it. On his remonstrating with the watchman on the subject, the station-master came out of his room and himself asked him to leave the platform. This he accordingly did. Since that day the watchman would never allow him to enter the platform before the arrival of trains and would also cut jokes at him. On the 8th Baisakh (B.S. last the watchman was about to prevent him from conducting some ladies to the Ladies' waiting-room on the down platform, when some other men in the station chastised the watchman and let him go. The watchman's name is Raja Ram. Raja Ram then made indecent gestures in the correspondent's direction, purporting to tell him that any complaint which he might bring against him would be ineffectual. Many people saw this and their names may be given if required.

36. The same paper says that the indifference of the Hooghly district Board in the matter of improving the *khal* in Kaikala is responsible for the increase of malaria and destruction of the crops in that part of the district. Babu Bama Charan Bharh of Haripal is ready to help the Board in the execution of the scheme, and yet the Board remains inactive in the matter.

HITAVADI.
May 8th, 1903.

37. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th May makes the following complaints against the management of the East Indian Railway:—

BANGAVASI,
May 9th, 1903.

(1) The discontinuance of the practice of beating gongs by way of warning passengers before a train started—a practice which was in vogue for fifty years—is not only causing inconvenience to passengers but has become a source of danger to them.

(2) Trains do not stop at stations for the full period mentioned in the time-table.

(3) The arrangement for the supply of drinking water to passengers is inadequate and ought to be improved, specially during the hot weather. At present, trains start before the watermen have had time to attend all the passengers who wanted a draught.

38. The same paper says that the tramway casualties which have become so frequent in Calcutta of late are not always due to pure accident, but sometimes occur through the fault of drivers. Since the introduction of electric traction many drivers and conductors have come to look upon themselves as little Nawabs and do not listen to the cries of passengers bawling out for the stoppage of cars, nor do they stop cars at the halting places appointed sufficiently long to allow of passengers mounting or alighting from the cars. Again when the cars are started after a stoppage, the jerk of starting invariably causes passengers who have mounted the cars but have not had time to take their seats to fall down upon other passengers, often injuring themselves and the others, and not unoften passengers fall down upon the street from this cause. There are some very polite conductors and drivers, but the temper of most drivers and conductors is very insolent and haughty.

BANGAVASI.

39. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 10th May has the following:—

RANGALAYA,
May 10th, 1903.

(1) The drivers of tram-cars in Calcutta are rude and ignorant. They should possess good eyesight and some knowledge of electricity and should be required to be polite to passengers. Government should ask the Tramway Companies to see that their drivers possess these qualifications.

(2) Nor are the conductors educated and courteous. There ought to be three of them in every car, viz., two for issuing tickets to the passengers and

one solely for looking to their getting in and getting out of the cars so as to prevent accidents.

Their remuneration ought to be increased so as to attract young men from respectable families.

(3) Provision should be made for stopping the car and bringing it to a standstill whenever necessary; otherwise accidents are very likely to occur in crowded streets like Chitpore Road, &c. The second class cars which are the most crowded are too old and are not furnished with any buffer or couplings. The Company ought to improve the construction of their cars, in order to prevent accidents.

In the interest of poor townspeople fare of second-class passengers should be reduced to one anna.

PRATIVASI,
May 11th, 1903.

40. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May complains (1) that though the India General Steam Navigation Company makes a good profit from the

A steamer complaint.

Kushtia-Pabna steamer line, and also gets a bonus of Rs. 5,000 a year from the Pabna District Board, it conducts the service on the line in a most irregular manner, thereby causing great inconvenience to passengers; (2) that the want of a proper waiting-room and want of lights at night at the Pabna steamer ghat cause great hardship and inconvenience to passengers.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 11th, 1903.

41. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th May is sorry that the practice of ringing a bell at the time of starting trains has been stopped at the East Indian Railway

A railway complaint.

stations, and that great inconvenience is in consequence felt by the passengers travelling by that railway.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
May 12th, 1902.

42. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 12th May has the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Railway servants take large quantities of sweetmeat from sweetmeat-vendors in the railway stations. This has become a source of great loss to the latter, although they have been exempted from payments of license moneys for permission to carry on their trade in them.

(2) The Parbatipur Junction Station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway is sorely in need of a commodious waiting-room for third-class passengers, the existing one being too small to hold the large number of passengers who gather in the station.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,

34. The same paper says that the benches kept for intermediate class passengers on the steamers of the India General Steam

Steamer and railway complaints.

Navigation Company plying between Chandpur and Goalundo are often found to be occupied by *khalasis* and servants of European passengers. This causes great inconvenience to intermediate class passengers themselves.

Watermen are seldom met with in the stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway up Goalundo. The Chittagong express train starts from Goalundo at nearly 1-30 P.M. The passengers in this train suffer greatly through non-supply of drinking water in the stations.

(h)—General.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 5th, 1903.

44. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th May says:—

The proposal to impose a water-tax.

The people do not want good water for drinking and bathing purposes if it is proposed to be given them by Government only on condition of their paying a new water-rate. They are already overburdened with taxes and are too poor to bear an additional rate.

The proposal to levy a water-rate can never be proper or justifiable. Giving water to the thirsty may not be considered a royal virtue, but it is regarded as an act of religious merit among all nations. The duty is inculcated by the Hindu religion and among the Hindus, the excavation of tanks, &c., in connection with the installation of the image of *siva lingam* is considered a pious act. *Islam* also favours and commends the execution of such works. Witness the innumerable wells, which are found almost at every half-a-mile on both sides of the Grand Trunk Road.

India now enjoys peace and security under the noble government of the British nation, and it is impossible for the present British rulers of the country though they combine in themselves the double function of merchant and administrator to refuse to give their distressed Indian subjects the benefits of good government.

Earlier English rulers of India did not tarnish their fair fame by the heartless imposition of a water-tax in order to remove the water scarcity prevailing in the country, and it is the people's prayer that such a stain may not be cast on Lord Curzon's rule. The acting Lieutenant-Governor is well acquainted with the condition of the country, and he should see that his good name does not suffer by the adoption of any measure by which the thirsty are supplied with water in return for a tax levied from the people for the purpose. Let not Government show itself unkind by saddling with a new tax the poor people of these provinces who are already groaning under the burden of the *chaukidari*-tax. If, however, the Government is determined to impose a water-rate, the people would tell it plainly and loudly and with tears in their eyes that it is far better to go without water than to have it in exchange for a water-tax.

45. A correspondent of the same paper says that Mr. Skinner, the Sub-divisional Officer of Raniganj, deserves all praise for making no invidious distinction between natives and Europeans. He is, in fact, as noble-minded as was Lord Ripon. The care and patience with which he tries to ascertain the truth ought to be imitated by all judicial officers of the present time. The people of Assam, from which he has been transferred to his present station, were perfectly justified in drawing his carriage as a mark of their appreciation of his high-mindedness.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
May 5th, 1903.

46. Referring to the severe water-scarcity prevailing in the mufassal and to the hint given by Mr. Collin in the course of his budget speech that probably a temporary local water-rate will be levied to remove the water-scarcity, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 6th May writes as follows:—

PALLIVASI,
May 6th, 1903.

Has Government forgotten the purposes for which the road and public works cesses were imposed and the purposes for which the people are continuing to pay it? It is the sovereign's duty to supply his subjects with water free of cost. In this country, however, the people are paying for such a supply, yet they do not get it. Will it not be doing the mufassal people a wrong to compel them to pay a water-rate in addition to the various local taxes which they are already paying?

But considering the acute form that water-scarcity has assumed in this province, the people cannot afford to wait to discuss the question with the Government. They must have water at once or they shall all die. They will not, therefore, probably object to a temporary local tax being imposed for the purpose of water-supply, no matter what hardship they have to undergo to pay the tax. People who can pay the *chaukidari*-tax to entertain *chaukidars* to oppress them, will certainly find the means to pay a water-rate which is to benefit them. And they will be obliged to Government if it only takes prompt measures to supply them with water.

There is, however, one request to make to Government, and that is that it should assess and levy the rate through the agency of a local committee and be extremely careful to see that the rigour which attends the assessment and realisation of other taxes does not attend the administration of the proposed rate. The Magistrate should personally or by some subordinate officer watch the assessment and realisation of the rate and the way in which its proceeds are spent. All complaints of oppression should be promptly enquired into and decided, and if any complaint is received against the officer who is entrusted with such enquiry and decision, he should be promptly removed from his position.

The Government need not wait for the result of the Irrigation Commission in carrying out the project suggested above.

SANJIVANI,
May 7th, 1903.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th May writes as follows:—

Mr. Bourdillon reviving the
arkati system.

The following proclamation appears in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 29th April last:—"The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to declare that on and with effect from the 1st May 1903, specially employed garden-sardars, not being garden-sardars holding certificates under Chapter IV of the Assam Labour Act, 1901, may, in the Sonthal Parganas and in the districts of Hazaribagh and Manbhum, engage persons on behalf of their employers, and assist persons so engaged, to emigrate to any of the labour districts in the Province of Assam, subject to the provisions contained in the clauses of section 90 of the Act."

In 1901, the *arkati* system was abolished and subsequently the tricks adopted by tea-planters for employing *de facto arkati* were checked by the strong hand of the late Sir John Woodburn. But the above circular issued by Mr. Bourdillon will soon revive the system. Tea-planters will now send out their *arkatis* under the names of garden-sardars to secure victims, as before, among the Kols and Sonthals. What a bad thing Mr. Bourdillon has done! If he has done it through a mistake he will soon find his way to rectify it. But if the request of tea-planters had anything to do with it, then there is no hope of the order being withdrawn. Let Lord Curzon decide whether His Honour has done a good thing.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May writes as follows:—

The Indian Army expenditure.

In reply to His Highness the Agha Khan's suggestion made to the Imperial Legislative Council about the advisability of improving the *status* of the Imperial Service Troops maintained by the Native States in India, and following the example of Germany by placing them "under the direct peace and war command of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief," the Hon'ble Major-General Sir Edmond Elles said, that the German system could not be introduced in India because the two countries were not similarly circumstanced. He also said, "the wonder of Foreign powers is not the enormous army we keep up, but the fact that we have such a small army to hold the enormous tract called India." If this statement is correct, it only proves the timidity and the peaceful nature of the Indians. Our quarrel with the Government is, however, not about the largeness of the number of troops in India, but about the excessiveness of her military expenditure. The native Members of the Council tried to prove that considering the poverty and the timidity and peaceful disposition of its people the army expenditure in India was unduly heavy. Sir Edmond Elles was not able to give a satisfactory reply to their arguments. He was also not right when he tried to explain the increase of military expenditure by referring to "the increase of pay * * * given to the native Army and * * * to the British." In 1894 the annual cost of a British soldier in India was Rs. 891, whilst that of a native soldier was Rs. 343. Since then the former has been increased by Rs. 123, and it has been proposed to increase it further by Rs. 146. But during all this time the annual cost of a native soldier has been increased by Rs. 27 only. The extraordinary increase of the annual cost of a British soldier as compared with that of a native soldier alone disproves the War Minister's contention.

HITAVADI.

49. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the extreme irregularity of postal service in the Tushbhandar village within the jurisdiction of the Kakina post-office in the Rangpur district. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

50. The same paper says that the salt merchants of the Boalmari *bunder* in the Faridpur district have made a conspiracy amongst themselves not to reduce the price of salt in spite of the reduction of the salt-tax.

HITAVADI.

Price of salt at the Boalmari
bunder in the Faridpur district.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

51. Referring to the prevailing agitation among the Anglo-Indians in Calcutta on the advisability of a servant law, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May says that it is more disposed to believe what is said from the servants' Anglo-Indian agitation against native servants in Calcutta.

side, viz., that they are ill-treated and beaten by their Anglo-Indian masters, and also that they are not regularly paid than the story which the Anglo-Indians tell, viz., that the servants are insolent and intractable and that a little chastisement for any fault leads them to leave off service and prevent other servants from accepting it. For why should a servant, who is regularly paid and fairly treated by his master, resign service when before long he will have to serve another master to earn his livelihood? Why again are complaints against servants seldom heard from native gentlemen? Government, it is hoped, will turn a deaf ear to the Anglo-Indian agitation. The Assam cooly law and a few other similar legislative measures are enough to cast a blemish on British rule in India, and it is hoped that their number will not be increased by legislation against servants.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

52. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May has the following:—

RANGALAYA,
May 3rd, 1903.

"Our Indian *vis-a-vis*." In the course of his excellent lecture headed "Our Indian *vis-a-vis*" Mr. Blair, the Editor of the *Englishman* newspaper, observes:—

"We behave, in fact, out of business hours, as though we were not in India at all. Of course it would be unreasonable, and it would be wrong to attack these things in themselves. It is perfectly true that plenty of exercise and a certain amount of diversion are necessary to health in a country like this. But man does not live by bread alone, and in India it is not enough that we should simply keep ourselves physically fit. Our position here is strange, and almost unnatural, and it cannot be left to take care of itself. The sources of our power are not the rains which descend from heaven. They are artificial canals laid through the desert. So long as the engineers in charge of the canals are watchful and skilful, the supply of water will be maintained. But so soon as they become careless or inefficient, the irrigation will disappear. And I put it to you whether we are wise in carrying on this hand-to-mouth existence—a small Western speck upon the broad expanse of Asia, living among peoples alien to us in every conceivable way, struggling, as we are, individually for wealth, or engrossed in the petty cares and delights of our separate lives, without knowing or troubling ourselves about the changes that are taking place among the myriads who surround us."

Mr. Blair assigns two reasons for the absence, at the present time, of sympathetic relations between Englishmen and Indians, namely, (1) increased facilities of travel between England and India which enable Englishmen to pay frequent visits to their native land, and (2) the Englishman's natural reserve and unwillingness to mix with other races. Says Mr. Blair—"This instinctive disdain for the darker races may be a natural preservative against the deterioration of our own breed."

This is perfectly true. It is the same consideration which makes us so unwilling to mix with Englishmen. It is the fear of losing caste, and the purity of our breed and religious faith that makes us averse to the establishment of close and cordial relations with our rulers. Englishmen are our rulers, we are their subjects. They are strong, while we are weak and any intimate relations between the two peoples cannot but prove disastrous to our caste and breed, to our temporal and spiritual interests. As to the ultimate consequences of a continuance of the present state of things Mr. Blair says:—

"But I see clearly that unless it is, the British Raj must, sooner or later, follow the Mogul into Limbo. This would certainly be a bad thing for us; and it might well prove a bad thing for India; but unless we can get on terms with the Indians, how are we going to persuade them of the latter fact? I have seen it openly maintained, in a native paper, that Russian rule, with all its faults, would, on the whole, be preferable to the British in India. A statement like that is a danger signal, and we disregard it at the risk of catastrophe. Pleasant or unpleasant, hard or easy, the Sphinx riddle we have to read is to create a common interest between the Indians and ourselves. It is an urgent problem, more urgent even than currency or famine relief. It is folly to build upon British bayonets. The only lasting foundation

of our power is the respect and confidence of the Indian peoples even if we never find our way to the Indian heart. Now the danger of all this supineness, this ignorance, this supercilious indifference of ours towards our Indian *vis-a-vis* is that it is helping to destroy his confidence in us. He may be quite wrong in allowing himself to be influenced in this way; and in the ordinary course of things, it may take a long time to establish a permanent alienation; but how can we tell that the course of things will continue to run smoothly? The nations are consumed with unrest. Schemes of conquest and territory become, for some of our great neighbours, more necessary every day. Our interests are so far reaching that we are affected, more or less, by every disturbance of the *status quo* in every part of the globe. At any moment we may be called upon to face an international crisis far severer than that which cost us so much blood and suffering in South Africa. If such a crisis should occur while this process of estrangement is still going on, what guarantee have we that India might not be moved to throw off her allegiance? We know that such an impulse might easily thrill the country from Peshawar to the south in a single night. I suppose I am an alarmist; but I can honestly say that I shall be delighted if some one among the many who are better informed than myself will get up to-night and convince me that I have exaggerated the possibilities." Perfectly true. We never before heard an Englishman make such true and sound observations. We cherish no feeling of loyalty to Englishmen just as Englishmen feel no strong sympathy and affection for us.

The Rajput always kept himself armed and ready to fight for the Moguls and poured his heart's blood in their service, and yet in the course of time the Moguls have disappeared. No Hindu or Musalman in India is ready to lay down his life to defend the Englishman's cause. The Sikh, the Gurkha, the Jat, the Dogra, the Pathan or the Rajput may accept the service of the British Government as a paid soldier for the sake of his daily bread, but if real danger befalls Englishmen or if owing to adverse fortune they are defeated in two or three successive battles not one Indian will come forward to help them. One noteworthy point in this connection is that the English rulers are not natives of the country, and govern it by their naibs. The Indians therefore cannot be really loyal or attached to Englishmen, although a discontinuance of English rule would be equally injurious to both.

The Musalman rulers were natives of India, and in carrying on the work of administration placed complete reliance on Hindus, social and marital relations also had been established to some extent between the Musalman rulers and their Hindu subjects. But the Musalman rulers proved enemies of the Hindu's religion and his society. The British Government possesses education and enlightenment and offers no violence either to the Hindu religion or to Hindu society. But it is a rapacious Government. The distress arising from scarcity of food which prevails among the Hindus under English rule has had no parallel under any previous Government of the country. Want of food makes the existence of loyalty, confidence, affection and similar sentiments impossible. That is why it occurs to us that if occasion should arise the Indians would prove hostile to Englishmen. Thanks to her modern civilisation, the population of Europe now finds itself divided into two classes, one excessively wealthy and the other extremely poor; the latter, of course, more numerous than the former. It is these poor members of European society—the Socialists, the Anarchists and the Nihilists—who are always trying to subvert the existing social order. Who shall say that the Indian poor will not act similarly if an opportunity should present itself? The Musalman has gone in consequence of his hostility to the religion of the Hindus, and the Englishman will go in consequence of the troubles which the Indian poor are likely to create.

According to Mr. Blair, good feeling between English men and Indians may be established with the assistance of Christian Missionaries. This is correct from one standpoint and wrong from another. The establishment of good feeling between Englishmen and natives would be possible if there were Christian Missionaries like Carey and Duff. But do Christian Missionaries like Carey and Duff now come to this country? When those missionaries were in this country the officials also were noble-minded men. There were

also in those days a little good feeling between the blacks and the whites. But at the present time missionary and civilian, merchant and planter are all of one and the same type. They all now hate the blacks with equal intensity. The natives no longer look upon the missionaries with respect and they try to keep themselves at a distance from them. The Christian Missionary can, of course, render some assistance if the object of Englishmen be to mix with the Bheels and Sonthals.

You and we are as the Poles asunder. We lose our caste by touching you and you lose yours by touching us. Everything that is unholy in our eyes is acceptable to you, while everything that is filthy and abominable in your opinion is acceptable to us. There is no similarity or agreement between you and ourselves in the matter of food and amusement, dress and equipment, language and behaviour, religion and social usage. The climate of the country does not suit you, but merchants as you are, you are suffering all this trouble and hardship in a foreign land simply for the purpose of making money, and as soon as you will have gained your object you will leave the country, while it is our fate to permit ourselves against our wish to be bound and milked by the English milker. Can we two be one? We pray to God that the generous wish expressed by the noble-hearted Mr. Blair may be granted.

53. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th May deplores the condition to which want of nourishment has reduced the cattle in Bengal. Practical efforts are being made in Bombay and the Punjab to improve the condition of these animals in those parts of the country. The Bengal Government is, however, sadly apathetic in this matter. It ought to maintain well-bred cattle in its khas mahals and take steps to teach khas mahal raiyats cattle breeding and rearing. Circulars and resolutions, if not followed up by any practical order on the part of the Government, will prove of no avail.

HITAVADI,
May 8th, 1903.

54. A correspondent of the same paper regrets that the meeting, which was called in Bogra town by the District Magistrate of Bogra, to decide what should be done with the surplus of the Coronation Festivities Fund amounting to Rs. 42,000, has decided to devote it to the construction of a public hall. In this matter the meeting, which was composed of zamindars, pleaders, &c., only supported the desire of the District Magistrate. Only one person, Dr. Peary Sankar Das Gupta, L.M.S., had the courage to propose that the money should be devoted to the construction of some work of public utility, as the Commissioner of the Division had previously advised. A public hall would do no good to poor and middle-class people, whose money has gone to swell the Coronation Festivities Fund. Another correspondent echoes the same view and says that the money should be devoted to such works as the establishment of agricultural banks, excavation of wells, &c.

HITAVADI.

55. The same paper writes as follows :—

Extension of the term of Lord Curzon's office. With Lord Curzon as their Viceroy the Indians are as much agitated in their minds as were the frogs in *Æsop's Fables* with their stork king. The people live in constant apprehension of some new whim emanating from His Excellency. Lord Curzon is fond of luxuries and show, but he is not the man to be easily shaken. Had he looked impartially on all people, a new era would have been inaugurated in this country. We expected much from an industrious and powerful ruler like him, but we have been sadly disappointed at every step. He has, however, earned the love of the Indian people by reducing the salt and income-taxes. If he turns his attention to beneficent measures like these, ceases to make an invidious distinction between natives on the one hand and Eurasians and Europeans on the other in his treatment of the people and dispenses justice with an even hand, then all India will resound with his praise and a stream of happiness will flow through the country. Be that as it may, we shall consider ourselves fortunate if His Excellency make a good use of the extension of service which he has received. The first few years of the term of a Viceroy's office are spent in collecting informations and gaining experience so that real good to the people can only be done by a Viceroy like Lord Curzon who has now acquired experience of the country and its affairs.

HITAVADI.

We expect much from His Excellency and therefore rejoice at the extension of his term of office and we hope we shall not be disappointed.

BASUMATI,
May 8th, 1903.

56. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th May has the following :—

Extension of Lord Curzon's
term of office.

According to some people Lord Curzon's retirement will very probably mean a complete disorganisation of the Indian administration, and hence an extension of his term of office is absolutely necessary. But Indian public opinion is opposed to this view. Lord Curzon will gain immortality as an orator, but no trace of his name will be found in the history of men of action. His Delhi Durbar, however, will stand unrivalled in the history of wasteful *tamashas*. The people will not be sorry if his successor is found lacking in the gift of oratory, but possesses the essential qualities of a man of action.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 30th, 1903.

57. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 30th April is sorry to find that cholera is prevalent in many villages in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

58. The same paper says that many houses were burnt in many parts of the Balasore district. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd May states that two villages named Bantole and Kukuda in that State, which are

Fires in Balasore, Talcher and
Cuttack.

inhabited by many well-to-do people, were burnt to ashes. The loss of paddy seed is considered as simply irreparable. The *Ulkaldipaka* [Cuttack] of the 2nd May says that a fire took place in mauza Kushpur in outpost Mohanga, in district Cuttack, and refers to the occurrence of several fires in the Cuttack town which have caused considerable hardship and much distress to many men and women, who have thereby been rendered penniless.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 29th, 1903.

59. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 29th April regrets to state that something like water-famine has occurred in many villages in the Balasore district, and that unless it rains soon the distress of the villagers will

Water scarcity in the Balasore
district.

know no bounds.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 30th, 1903.

60. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 30th April speaks in very high terms of the kindness of Mr. Egerton, the Collector of Balasore, in permitting land revenue to be paid into the Balasore Treasury on the 28th April, the

A kind order passed by the
Collector of Balasore.

Latbandi day, till 12 noon. This considerate and sympathetic action on the part of the Collector has saved many estates in that district from the clutches of the cruel sale law.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

61. Referring to a notice, issued by the Collector of Cuttack, calling upon the *ijmali* zamindars of that district to open separate accounts in the Tauji department, on pain of their estates in arrears being put to sale, the

A notice issued by the Collector
of Cuttack to *ijmali* zamindars.

same paper observes that it is a piece of good advice, but the Collector should learn to be more sympathetic and to realise the difficulties under which individual land-owners are labouring. At any rate the zamindars should be allowed more time, in order to be able to act up to the instructions of the Collector.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

62. The same paper disapproves of the restrictions which its contemporary of the *Garjatbasini* proposes to impose on the *Pan* caste in the Orissa Garjats and observes that sections 109 and 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and section 401 of the Indian Penal Code are

The proposal to restrict the
liberty of the members of the *Pan*
caste.

enough to check crime for all practical purposes. The writer argues that a particular caste must not lose its liberty because the police finds itself unable to bring a few of its criminal members to justice, and hopes that the Superintendent of Tributary Mahals will look to the gravity of the situation.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

63. The same paper regrets that the Collector of Cuttack ordered deposits to be taken after 4 P.M. on the 28th April, the *Latbandi* day, and, as a consequence, many deposits that were offered at a later hour were refused.

An order of the Collector of
Cuttack.

The writer fails to see the reason why a departure was made from the

established practice of receiving revenue up to sun-set and of receiving deposits after sun-set on the *Latbandi* day, and observes that this is simply harassing the zamindars, who collect rent with great difficulty and remit the same to the treasury after undergoing considerable hardships in various ways. The writer adds that if the Collector found that his ordinary establishment was not able to finish the *Latbandi* business at the appointed hour, he should have made special arrangements to meet the difficulty.

64. The same paper is inclined to think that the number of rent-suits in Orissa is increasing day by day and is of opinion that the fact furnishes an indication of the unsound economic condition of the landed interest in that Province. The writer suggests that the Tenancy Act should be so amended as to enable the zamindars to realise their rents from the raiyats by a summary procedure, for it is not at all fair that while Government should reserve to itself the power of realising the land revenue by the help of the sale law, the zamindars should be left to the dilatory procedure of Civil or Revenue Courts for the realisation of their just dues.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 30th, 1903.

65. The same paper writes an article on the chaukidari tax and tries to make out that the tax is both unfair and cruel. As the tax touches the pocket of the poorest of the poor, it should be abolished without any more delay.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

66. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th April complains of the high duty imposed by Government on firewood. The public would not very much mind the levy of any impost on timber of the first or second class, but even *chalita*-wood which is never used, except for fuel, has been heavily taxed. Mr. Cavendish, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, has increased the duty per cubic foot from one pice to one anna. The Chief Commissioner is asked to reduce the duty to its old rate.

SILCHAR.
April 30th, 1903.

67. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 1st April has learnt from an authentic source that Mr. Logan, Assistant Engineer in charge of the Damchhara subdivision of the Assam-Bengal Railway, realises from the owners a fine of Rs. 5 per head of cattle found straying within the railway limits. It is not known if the levy of such fine is sanctioned by the Railway administration. If it is, it is very hard on the owners, since a good many of them cannot afford to pay the fine except by selling the animal itself. It is to be hoped that if such a rule has really received the sanction of the Company, they will rescind it, and if Mr. Logan's action is unauthorised they will point out to him its impropriety. The Company may establish a cattle-pound of their own and realise from the owners a fine at about the rate which is in force in Government pounds. The practice of the Railway authorities at Haflong is to send such stray cattle to Government pounds.

PARIDARSAK,
May 1st, 1903.

68. The same paper notices several cases of attempt at highway robbery committed in the vicinity of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow in Sylhet town. Outrages by *Kabulis* are becoming frequent in the *mufassal*. But in the town, where the police go their rounds, the occurrence of such cases is a clear proof of their negligence.

PARIDARSAK.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

The 16th May, 1903.

